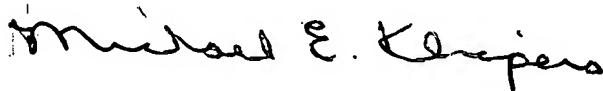


## REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted prior to the receipt of any Office Action for this patent application. In the specification, the second paragraph on page 8 has been amended to correct minor editorial problems. A clean page 8 is presented in Exhibit A. New claims 25-29 have been added. A listing of all pending claims is listed which begins on page 5. Claims 1-29 are pending with claims 1, 11, 22, 23 and 24 being independent. No new matter is added. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 1-29 are allowable and that the application should be passed to issue.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. If any matters can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael E. Klicpera, Esq., Reg. No. 38,044  
P.O. Box 573  
San Diego, California 92038-0573  
Telephone: (619) 980-8680

**Exhibit A**  
**Specification page 8 Replacement Sheet**  
**(on the following page)**

Furthermore, other potential materials such as specially formulated polymers, semiconductor technology, Ion Sensitive Field Effect Transistors ("ISFET's), optical sensing, capacitive sensing, and nanotechnology could be employed.

The antimony sensor 24 is engaged at its proximal end to an electronic communication means 26. Typically electrical wire 26 has an internal core comprises an electrically conductive metallic material that is encased by a nonconductive jacket. The means of engagement typically employs standard soldering technology and can be supported by a variety of means to provide strain relief. The surface 22 of the antimony sensor plug 24 defines the distal terminal boundary of the sensor and is the surface that is exposed to liquid or humid gaseous environments. The performance of the sensor may be enhanced in some environments by the inclusion of a coating on this distal surface. One example would be a hygroscopic coating to enhance the absorption and retention of moisture on the sensor in humidified gases and aerosols. Materials such as hydrophilic polyurethanes, polyacrylamides, poly(2-hydroxyethyl-methacrylate), other methacrylate copolymers, perfluorinated polymers, polysaccharides, polyvinylchloride, polyvinyl alcohol and silicones could all be utilized as surface enhancements either alone, in combination, or with modifications.

Located proximally, from a range of 1-8 centimeters from the proximal end of the antimony sensor 24 and